

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 01965 242333Z

17

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SP-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-07 SS-20

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R 242255Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8257

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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PASS AGRICULTURAE FOR SECRETARY BUTZ, ASST. SEC YEUTTER AND
GIFFORD FROM BELL.

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: BEEF IMPORTS

1. MET JUNE 24 WITH N.Z. AGRICULTURE MINISTER (MOYLE),
OVERSEAS TRADE MINISTER (WALDING), MEAT BOARD CHAIRMAN (HILGENDORF)
AND OTHER NZ GOVERNMENT AND MEAT BOARD OFFICIALS.
MEETINGS FRIENDLY, CANDID AND CONSTRUCTIVE.

2. NZ GOVERNMENT AND MEAT BOARD ESTIMATE ARRIVALS OF NZ BEEF
AND VEAL IN US DURING 1974 AT 126,500 TONS (279 MILLIONS LBS.).
THIS DOWN FROM NZ ESTIMATE OF 140,000 TONS (309 MILLION LBS.)
MADE FEW MONTHS AGO AND COMPARES WITH CURRENT FAS ESTIMATE OF
300 MILLIONS LBS. NZ OFFICIALS ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN ARRIVALS
WILL NOT EXCEED 126,500 TONS AND PROVIDED DATA TO SUPPORT ESTIMATE.
RECOMMEND WE ACCEPT IT FOR OUR QUARTERLY ESTIMATE. SLOWDOWN IN
EXPORTS DUE TO DOWNTURN IN COW SLAUGHTER WHICH IN TURN RELATED
TO 60 PERCENT DROP IN NZ COW PRICES SINCE EARLY PART OF YEAR.
COW SLAUGHTER VIRTUALLY COMPLETED FOR 1973-74 SEASON. MEAT
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PAGE 02 WELLIN 01965 242333Z

BOARD ESTIMATES NZ MEAT ARRIVALS IN US IN 1974 BY QUARTERS

IN 1,000 METRIC TONS AT 26.8, 31.8, 46.5 AND 21.4.

3. NZ MINISTERS BELIEVE CLOSURE US MARKET MUST BE AVOIDED AT ALL COSTS AND WILLING TO FURTHER SLOW NZ EXPORTS TO US DURING 1974 IF THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL. THEY BELIEVE CLOSURE OF US MARKET AT THIS TIME WOULD DESTROY NZ PRODUCER CONFIDENCE AND COULD HAVE LONGER-RUN CONSEQUENCES FOR WORLD BEEF SUPPLIES. IMPOSITION OF US QUOTAS FOR 1974 AT 1,028 MILLION POUNDS LEVEL WOULD VIRTUALLY HALT NZ EXPORTS DURING FINAL QUATER AND CAUSE BACK-UP IN COLD STORAGE FACILITIES.

4. NZ MINISTERS BELIEVE NEED EXISTS FOR SYSTEM OF MULTILATERAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION REGARDING WOULD TRADE IN BEEF AND FAVOR MEETING OF PRINCIPAL TRADING COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS LONGER-TERM ASPECTS OF WORLD TRADE IN BEEF. BELIEVE MEETING SHOULD INCLUDE US., CANADA, EC, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, NZ AND POSSIBLY ARGENTINA. HAVE NO PARTICULAR VIEWS REGARDING UNDER WHOSE AUSPICES SUCH MEETING MIGHT BE HELD BUT BELIEVE IT SHOULD NOT BE FAO.

5. NZ GOVERNMENT AND MEAT BOARD PROVIDED DATA ON EXPECTED NZ BEEF PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS IN 1975. EXPORTS TO US WILL BE UP FROM 1974 WITH EVENTUAL LEVEL DEPENDENT ON AVAILABILITY OF MARKETS IN JAPAN AND EUROPE.
SELDEN

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